

## Product News

### Workhouse stereomicroscope



The new **StereoMaster 3** from **Prior Scientific** is designed for a long and trouble-free working life in tough situations like industrial inspection or the teaching laboratory. Based on Prior's 80 years experience of microscope design and manufacture, this rugged and economical system

comes complete with three interchangeable objectives, giving 10×, 20× and 35× magnifications, and built-in 12V 10W illuminator. The StereoMaster 3 is ideal for virtually any routine inspection task in industry, science or education. It incorporates a long arm stand with a 280 mm reach, particularly useful for accommodating large or awkwardly shaped specimens. A range of movements — height, angle and rotation — and a choice of near-axis or oblique illumination give almost unlimited viewing options. The heavy-duty base provides extra stability, allowing the complete arm and head to be rotated by 180°, creating the maximum possible free space for larger specimens. An optional spot illuminator, mounted on a flexible arm and provided with variable intensity control, is also available.

Circle number 1 on reader response card.

### In Brief

#### Containment by design

Many laboratory and production processes involve potentially pathogenic organisms that must be handled in containment systems having a measurable level of operator protection. **Medical Air Technology** have issued a guide describing the design requirements for a Category Level 3 Containment Laboratory. The paper covers the various design considerations of the ACDP Guidelines and specifically ventilation methods, room finishes, safety cabinets, fumigation and it outlines the test methods for correct validation and maintenance. Circle number 4 on reader response card.

#### A breakthrough in science

**Bio-Tek Instruments** have recently introduced their new range of Microplate spectrophotometers. The **MicroTek DS** merges the throughput convenience of microplate format with the performance of a spectrophotometer. Conventional EIAs at virtually any wavelength quantitate nucleic acids in the lower UV range or automatically run spectral scans for peak absorbance measurements. Among the MicroTek DS's many features are custom diffraction grating, spectral scanning, multiple plate formats and pre-defined route analysis.

Circle number 5 on reader response card.

### New pH meters



**Beckman Coulter, Inc.** have introduced a new series of three pH meters for measurement of concentration with ion-selective electrodes (ISEs). These meters are part of the company's new line of twelve  $\Phi^{\circ}$  pH and mV systems. The three new meters with ISE capability are the  $\Phi 295$  hand-held, waterproof meter; the  $\Phi 390$  benchtop model and the  $\Phi 690$  high-performance meter. All three measure pH as well as concentration (ISE), mV through oxidation reduction potential, relative mV and temperature. The  $\Phi 690$  also offers research grade accuracy.

Circle number 2 on reader response card.

### UV/visible spectrometer



The cost-effective **Lambda EZ150™** ultraviolet/visible spectrometer, from **Perkin Elmer**, is a robust instrument that ensures reliable measurements for a multi-user laboratory environment. The keypad layout and backlit display make the microprocessor-controlled spectrometer easy to use in a busy laboratory. With any two wavelengths defined, Absorbance ratios and Absorbance differences ratio can be measured and reported with the press of a button. In addition, self-diagnostics verify correct operation and optical performance.

Circle number 3 on reader response card.

#### New generation TOC analyser

**USF Elga** have recently launched a new generation total organic carbon (TOC) analyser called the **TCA Plus**. Incorporating the very latest technologies, the TCA Plus is designed to provide *in situ* measurement of TOC in high-purity water applications. With its compact design and easy-to-use controls the TCA Plus is the ideal choice for accurate measurement of TOC levels from 2 to 300 parts per billion. Features include a choice of operation modes from automatic analysis to standby and a RS232 port allowing water quality records to be kept.

Circle number 6 on reader response card.

#### Laser correction of myopia

The **Nidek excimer laser**, studied at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, has received approval from the Food and Drug Administration. The Alkek Eye Center at Baylor was one of the first five sites in the US to study the Nidek laser and evaluate its effectiveness in correcting myopia, or nearsightedness. The excimer laser works by sculpting the front surface of the cornea to decrease its curvature. This reduces the eye's focusing power to sharpen distance vision. The laser scans across the cornea to create an extremely smooth surface.

Circle number 7 on reader response card.